

## CLAIMS

1. Liquid detergents containing hydroxy mixed ethers.
  2. Detergents as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that they contain hydroxy mixed ethers corresponding to formula (I):
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- $$\begin{array}{c} \text{OH} \\ | \\ \text{R}^1\text{CH-CHR}^2\text{O(CH}_2\text{CHR}^3\text{O})_n\text{R}^4 \end{array} \quad (\text{I})$$
- 10 10 in which R<sup>1</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl group containing 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, R<sup>4</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl and/or alkenyl group containing 1 to 22 carbon atoms and n is a number of 1 to 50, with the proviso that the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is at least 6.
  - 15 15 3. Detergents as claimed in claims 1 and/or 2, characterized in that they contain hydroxy mixed ethers in quantities of 1 to 60% by weight, based on the detergents.
  - 20 20 4. Detergents as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that they also contain anionic, nonionic, cationic and/or amphoteric or zwitterionic co-surfactants.
  - 25 25 5. Detergents as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that they contain co-surfactants selected from the group consisting of alkyl benzenesulfonates, alkyl sulfates, soaps, alkanesulfonates, paraffin sulfonates, methyl ester sulfonates, fatty alcohol polyglycol ethers, alkoxylated fatty acid lower alkyl esters, alkyl oligoglucosides, esterquats and betaines.
  - 30 30 6. Detergents as claimed in claims 4 and/or 5, characterized in that they contain the co-surfactants in quantities of 1 to 40% by weight.
  7. Detergents as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that they additionally contain typical auxiliaries and additives.

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8. Detergents as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that they contain the additional auxiliaries and additives in quantities of 1 to 25% by weight.
9. Detergents as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that they have a water content of 25 to 75% by weight.
- 5 10. The use of hydroxy mixed ethers as nonionic surfactants for the production of liquid detergents.

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